

REMARKS

Initially, Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the recent in-person interview. The claim amendments and arguments submitted in this paper are consistent with the amendments and arguments presented during the course of the interview. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 5-6, 8-16 and 20-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Shen et al. (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2003/0149890), hereinafter *Shen*, and further in view of Bohannon et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,134,324), hereinafter *Bohannon*. Claims 2-3, 17 and 22-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious in view of *Shen*, in view of *Bohannon*, and further in view of Matsuyama et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,574,611), hereinafter *Matsuyama*. Claims 4 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious in view of *Shen*, in view of *Bohannon*, and further in view Rabinovitch (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2006/0101521), hereinafter *Rabinovitch*. Claims 24-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being obvious in view of *Shen*, in view of *Bohannon*, and further in view of Nelson (U.S. Pat. No. 6,691,229), hereinafter *Nelson*.¹

By this amendment claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21 have been amended.² No claims have been added or cancelled. Accordingly, claims 1-17 and 20-25 are pending, of which claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21 are the only independent claims at issue.

As discussed during the interview, the present invention is generally directed to storing digitally-encoded material. For example, claim 1 defines method of storing digitally-encoded material including employing a processor to execute computer executable instructions stored in memory to perform the following acts: combining a unique identifier with the digitally-encoded material and encrypting the combination of the unique identifier and the digitally-encoded material, wherein the unique identifier persists throughout the lifetime of the digitally-encoded material, regardless of any changes made to any portion of the digitally-encoded material.

Claim 1 further defines associating one or more built-in functions with the encrypted digitally-encoded material such that the unique identifier and the built-in functions are coupled to

¹ Although the prior art status of the cited art is not being challenged at this time, Applicant reserves the right to challenge the prior art status at any appropriate time, should it arise. Accordingly, any arguments and amendments made herein should not be construed as acquiescing to any prior art status of the cited art.

² Support for the amendments to the claims is found throughout the specification and previously presented claims, including but not limited to paragraphs [0005], [0006], [0023], [0025] and Figures 2-4.

the digitally-encoded material, the built-in functions governing transforms and rendering of the digitally-encoded material, wherein the digitally-encoded material can be transformed and rendered only by the built-in functions and wherein at least one of the built-in functions is configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted, storing a list of processors that are permitted to execute the built-in functions, receiving information regarding a first processor attempting to execute one or more of the built-in functions and verifying if the first processor attempting to execute the built-in functions is on the list of processors. Lastly, claim 1 defines permitting the first processor to execute the one or more built-in functions if the processor is on the list else preventing the first processor from executing the one or more built-in functions.

Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art of record does not anticipate or otherwise render the amended claims unpatentable for at least the reason that the cited art does not disclose, suggest, or enable each and every element of these claims.

35 U.S.C. 102 and 103 Rejections

As discussed during the interview, *Shen* describes a content distribution protecting method and apparatus (Title). *Shen*'s method defines standards for implementing an MPEG-n intellectual property management and protection (IPMP) system (Abs.). When distributing MPEG content, *Shen*'s content provider includes an encoder to encode the content stream, an encryption unit to encrypt the stream, a content ID generator for generating a specific Content ID based on the content of the stream, IPMP tools for decrypting the stream and a data stream compiler to assemble the various parts (par. [0034]). The IPMP tools are "modules that perform IPMP functions such as authentication, encryption, and watermarking in a predefined way," (par. [0059]). *Bohannon* is cited primarily to show the use of a loader module configured to verify that a CPU that is to process a given software product is on a list of approved CPUs that are allowed to process that product (Col. 8:37-48). If the CPU's CPU-ID is on the list, processing is permitted; if not, processing is terminated (*Id.*).

However, while *Shen* generally describes using a Content ID, *Shen*'s Content ID is generated based on and is specific to the MPEG stream content (par. [0034]). Accordingly, if the MPEG stream content were to change, the Content ID generated based on that content would no longer be valid. Moreover, while *Shen* generally describes IPMP tools configured to perform authentication, encryption and watermarking, *Shen* does not mention a built-in function that is

configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted. *Bohannon* does not make up for these deficiencies.

Accordingly, at least for any of the above reasons, none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "combining a unique identifier with the digitally-encoded material and encrypting the combination of the unique identifier and the digitally-encoded material, wherein the unique identifier persists throughout the lifetime of the digitally-encoded material, regardless of any changes made to any portion of the digitally-encoded material," as recited in combination with the other limitations of claim 1.

Moreover, at least for any of the above reasons, none of the cited art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests "associating one or more built-in functions with the encrypted digitally-encoded material such that the unique identifier and the built-in functions are coupled to the digitally-encoded material, the built-in functions governing transforms and rendering of the digitally-encoded material, wherein the digitally-encoded material can be transformed and rendered only by the built-in functions and wherein at least one of the built-in functions is configured to automatically notify a selected entity when a specified built-in function has been executed or when execution has been attempted," as recited in combination with the other limitations of claim 1.

Accordingly, at least for the reasons outlined above, claim 1 patentably defines over the art of record. At least for any of these reasons, claims 6, 11, 16 and 21 also patentably define over the art of record. Since each of the dependent claims depend from one of claims 1, 6, 11, 16 and 21, each of the dependent claims also patentably define over the art of record for at least any of the same reasons.

Objections to the Claims

Claims 1-5 and 11-15 were objected to for minor informalities. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to no longer include the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to claims 1-5 and 11-15 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the other rejections to the claims are now moot and do not, therefore, need to be addressed individually at this time. It will be appreciated, however, that this should not be construed as Applicant acquiescing to any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action regarding the cited art or the pending

application, including any official notice. Instead, Applicant reserves the right to challenge any of the purported teachings or assertions made in the last action at any appropriate time in the future, should the need arise. Furthermore, to the extent that the Examiner has relied on any Official Notice, explicitly or implicitly, Applicant specifically requests that the Examiner provide references supporting the teachings officially noticed, as well as the required motivation or suggestion to combine the relied upon notice with the other art of record.

In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (801) 533-9800.

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Respectfully submitted,

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